

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
) Criminal No: 3:14-429-TLW
 v.)
)
)
 JAMES METTS) PLEA AGREEMENT
 a/k/a "Jimmy Metts")
 a/k/a "Sheriff Metts")
 a/k/a "Lexington County)
 Sheriff")

This PLEA AGREEMENT is made this 5th day of December, 2014, between the United States of America, as represented by United States Attorney WILLIAM N. NETTLES, Assistant United States Attorney Julius N. Richardson; the Defendant, **JAMES METTS**, a/k/a "Jimmy Metts," a/k/a "Sheriff Metts," a/k/a "Lexington County Sheriff," and Defendant's attorneys, Scott Schools and Sherri Lydon.

1. The Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 10 of the Indictment, charging conspiracy to harbor certain aliens, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I) and 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii).

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- First, two or more persons entered an agreement with the purpose to harbor, conceal, and shield from detection, or attempt to harbor, conceal, and shield from detection an illegal alien.
- Second, the defendant knowingly and voluntarily joined the conspiracy.
- Third, the defendant knew or acted in reckless disregard of the fact that the illegal alien was not lawfully in the United States.

The penalty for this offense is:

- A maximum term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years; a fine of not more than \$250,000, a term of supervised release of not more than three years, plus a special assessment of \$100.00.

2. The Defendant understands and agrees that monetary penalties [i.e., special assessments, restitution, fines and other payments required under the sentence] imposed by the Court are due immediately and subject to enforcement by the United States as civil judgments, pursuant to 18 USC § 3613. The Defendant also understands that payments made in accordance with installment schedules set by the Court are minimum payments only and do not preclude the government from seeking to enforce the judgment against other assets of the defendant at any time, as provided in 18 USC §§ 3612, 3613 and 3664(m).

A. Special Assessment: Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3013, the Defendant must pay a special assessment of \$100.00 for each felony count for which he is convicted. This special assessment must be paid at or before the time of the guilty plea hearing.

B. Fines: The Defendant understands that the Court may impose a fine pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3571 and 3572.

3. The Defendant understands that the obligations of the Government within the Plea Agreement are expressly contingent upon the Defendant's abiding by federal and state laws and complying with any bond executed in this case. In the event that the Defendant fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement, either express or implied, the Government will have the right, at its sole election, to void all of its obligations under this Agreement and the Defendant will not have any right to withdraw his plea of guilty to the offense(s) enumerated herein.

Merger and Other Provisions

4. The Defendant represents to the court that he has met with his attorneys on a sufficient number of occasions and for a sufficient period of time to discuss the Defendant's case and receive advice; that the Defendant has been truthful with his attorneys and related all information of which the Defendant is aware pertaining to the case; that the Defendant and his

attorneys have discussed possible defenses, if any, to the charges in the Information including the existence of any exculpatory or favorable evidence or witnesses, discussed the Defendant's right to a public trial by jury or by the Court, the right to the assistance of counsel throughout the proceedings, the right to call witnesses in the Defendant's behalf and compel their attendance at trial by subpoena, the right to confront and cross-examine the government's witnesses, the Defendant's right to testify in his own behalf, or to remain silent and have no adverse inferences drawn from his silence; and that the Defendant, with the advice of counsel, has weighed the relative benefits of a trial by jury or by the Court versus a plea of guilty pursuant to this Agreement, and has entered this Agreement as a matter of the Defendant's free and voluntary choice, and not as a result of pressure or intimidation by any person.

5. The Defendant is aware that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 and 28 U.S.C. § 2255 afford every defendant certain rights to contest a conviction and/or sentence. Acknowledging those rights, the Defendant, in exchange for the concessions made by the Government in this Plea Agreement, waives the right to contest either the conviction or the sentence in any direct appeal or other post-conviction action, including any proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. (This waiver does not apply to claims of

ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct raised pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.)

6. The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

7. If the Defendant complies with all the terms of this Agreement, both parties agree that the appropriate disposition of this case is a sentence of three years probation. In the event that the Defendant complies with all terms of this Agreement and the Court declines to impose this sentence, the Defendant will have the right to withdraw his FRCRP 11(C)(1)(c) plea.

8. If the Defendant complies with all the terms of this Agreement, the Government agrees to dismiss the remaining counts of the Indictment.

9. The parties hereby agree that this Plea Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties; that this Agreement supersedes all prior promises, representations and statements of the parties; that this Agreement shall not be binding on any party until the Defendant tenders a plea of

guilty to the court having jurisdiction over this matter; that this Agreement may be modified only in writing signed by all parties; and that any and all other promises, representations and statements, whether made prior to, contemporaneous with or after this Agreement, are null and void.

12/5/14
DATE

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DATE

J. R. Metts
JAMES METTS, DEFENDANT

[Signature]
SCOTT SCHOOLS
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

[Signature]
SHERRI LYDON
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

WILLIAM N. NETTLES
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
[Signature]
JULIUS N. RICHARDSON
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY